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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Stealth Program

The Secretary of Defense, in a public announcement on August 22, 1980, acknowledged the existence of a research and development program which has achieved a major technological advance.

The following facts concerning the Stealth Program are considered unclassified:

- The existence of a development program to reduce the detectability of military vehicles by air defense systems;
- The applicable technology utilizes a combination of technical approaches to negate the effectiveness of radar dependent and other air defenses;
- The technology can be applied to manned and unmanned vehicles;
- The technology can be applied, in principle, to any military vehicle which is subject to attack by radar-directed fire;
- The technology has been aggressively pursued for at least three years;
- There have been flight tests of different vehicles incorporating the technology.

Your assistance is vital in limiting disclosures of the Stealth Program to this brief set of facts. As you know, the Stealth Program has been under extraordinary security protection. In order to continue to protect the extremely critical and sensitive aspects, stringent security protection--to include specific determination of need to know--will be maintained concerning the following:

- Specific techniques employed to reduce detectability;
- Degree of success of each of these techniques;
- Characteristics of specific vehicles being developed;
- Funds being applied to specific programs;
- Schedules of specific programs; and
- Identity of contractors and government agencies involved.

Should elements of the information indicated above be required in the performance of your duties, please inform me.